(b) Installation of green letter boxes for early delivery of local mails;

(c) Redeployment of staff; and

(d) Mechanisation of clearance of letter boxes.

Hybrid Mail Service

1184. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Hybrid Mail proposed by Government;

(b) whether the mail will be delivered more effciently; and

(c) if so, the details of advantage of this service?

THE MINISTER of STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Hybrid Mail Service introduced by the Department of Post provides facility for electronic transmission of data and text through VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) and satellite channel and delivery to the addressees through the Postman. This service is presently available for Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Bangalore, Lucknow, Patna and Shimla where VSATs are functioning in New Delhi GPO, Bombay GPO, Anna Road GPO Madras, Lucknow GPO, Patna GPO and Shimla GPO. Messages booked through Hybrid Mail Service up to 03.00 p.m. are delivered at the destination on the same day.

Service charges are as under:—

Item	Tariff
2 KB data	Rs. 20/-
Subsequent 2 KB data or part thereof	Rs. 5/-
Data entry for each addtional page of A-4 size beyond the first page	Rs. 10/-

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Hybrid Mail Service ensures speedy and efficient transmission of text and delivery at the addressee's doorstep through Postman. The tariff for the service is low and customer can avail this facility of electronic transmission of message without owning a computer terminal or FAX.

Measures for efficient supply of LPG Cylinders

1185. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the state-wise number of LPG consumers in the country particularly in the State of Punjab as on 30th June, 1995;

(b) what was the number of persons who got their names registered for LPG connections in the country during the last three years, year-wise/state-wise;

(c) what is the monthly requirement of LPG cylinders in the country; and

(d) what effective measures Government propose to improve the supply of LPG cylinders to the consumers and to clear the waiting list of the persons who got their names registered for LPG connections in the country so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) The present average demand of the LPG cylinders by customers of Public Sector Oil Companies in the country is about 1.9 crore cylinders per month.

(d) Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible. The plans have been drawn for higher availability of LPG by increasing the capacity of existing production sources, putting up new plants

and augmenting supply through higher imports. New import facilities for LPG are under construction at Kandla and Mangalore which are expected to be commissioned in October, 1996. With this, the availability of LPG shall be increased through enhanced imports. New bottling plants and more LPG distributorships are being opened by Government Oil Companies to cater to higher demand. The entire waiting list is expected to be cleared by 2001 A.D.

In order to increase the availability of LPG in the country in addition to what is available through public sector oil companies, Government in February, 1993 decided to allow the import and sale of LPG by private agencies.

Statement

(figures in Lakhs)

States	Customer population with the distributors of public sector LPG marketing companies		State-wise waiting list with distributors of public sector LPG marketing companies	
	as on 1.4.95	as on 1.4.93	as on 1.4.94	as on 1.4.95
Andhra Pradesh	18.28	6.26	7.55	8.17
Arunachal Pradesh	0.27	0.14	0.16	0.13
Assam	3.60	1.24	1.28	1.10
Bihar	7.64	2.50	2.95	2.94
Goa	1.44	0.63	0.60	0.60
Gujarat	19.14	6.46	8.50	7.95
Haryana	7.02	3.73	3.44	4.06
Himachal Pradesh	2.64	0.70	0.73	0.75
Jammu & Kashmir	2.60	0.70	1.24	1.14
Karnataka	12.15	4.72	5.21	5.74
Kerala	8.37	3.52	4.79	5.01
Madhya Pradesh	12.10	4.47	4.42	5.85
Maharashtra	38.19	15.50	17.07	16.14
Manipur	0.51	0.21	0.13	0.06
Meghalaya	0.34	0.09	0.08	0.07
Mizoram	0.35	0.12	0.10	0.14
Nagaland	0.30	0.11	0.13	0.11
Orissa	3.35	1.03	1.24	1.32
Punjab	9.01	4.45	4.79	5.14
Rajasthan	8.28	6.82	7.61	7.18
Sikkim	0.12	0.08	0.10	0.09
Tamilnadu	18.85	9.94	11.55	12.70
Tripura	0.39	0.22	0.28	0.28
Uttar Pradesh	26.69	12.15	13.39	13.90
West Bengal	12.13	8.13	8.70	8.74

States	Customer population with the distributors of public sector LPG marketing companies		State-wise waiting list with distributors of public sector LPG marketing companies	
	as on 1.4.95	as on 1.4.93	as on 1.4.94	as on 1.4.95
Union Territories				
Andaman & Nicobar	0.11	0.07	0.08	0.06
Chandigarh	1.55	0.71	0.75	0.73
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.02
Delhi	15.77	6.46	6.97	7.01
Daman & Diu	0.09	0.03	0.03	0.04
Lakshadweep	0.01	—	—	—
Pondicherry	0.37	0.25	0.29	0.37

Use of Hindi by Indian Delegations visited Abroad

1186. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian delegations visited foreign countries officially during the last one year together with the number of members in each delegation;

(b) what is the number of the members who have delivered their speeches in foreign countries in English and Hindi respectively; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to encourage the members of the delegation to make optimum use of Hindi in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Losses due to Dacoities and Thefts

1187. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the losses due to dacoities and thefts in Railways Zone-wise during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 till 30.6.95;

(b) what is the total claim given by Railways for losses due to thefts and dacoities; and

(c) the steps taken by Railways to prevent thefts and dacoities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime in the trains is the responsibility of Government Railway Police (G.R.P.), which functions under the control of the respective State Governments/U.T. Administrations. Information pertaining to zone-wise losses suffered by the passengers on account of dacoities/thefts and claims thereof is not maintained by the Central Government.

Extra Departmental and Casual Employees working in Post and Telegraph Offices in Orissa

1188. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Extra-departmental Employees, casual labours working in